

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, SREF, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: MFA ALLEGES PENTECOSTALS PROTEST AGAINST EMBASSY

REFS: (A) 77 STATE 252172, (B) 77 MOSCOW 15385

1. CONSULAR COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA USA DIVISION COUNSELOR V.I. TRIFONOV FEBRUARY 22 AT LATTER'S REQUEST. TRIFONOV READ STATEMENT (ZAYAVLENIYE) FROM "GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION" TO WHICH MANY "INDIGNANT" CITIZENS FROM TALLINN ALLEGEDLY HAD WRITTEN PROTESTING COMMUNICATION FROM EMBASSY REGARDING EMIGRATION TO U.S. ACCORDING TO STATEMENT FROM WHICH TRIFONOV WAS READING, MANY RECIPIENTS REGARDED SUCH CORRESPONDENCE FROM EMBASSY AS ATTEMPT TO INCITE SOVIET CITIZENS TO EMIGRATE AND CONSTITUTED UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THEY ALLEGEDLY DEMANDED THAT EMBASSY CEASE THIS PRACTICE.

2. THE COMMUNICATIONS IN QUESTION TURNED OUT TO BE "ZAYAVLENIYA" EMBASSY SENT TO PENTECOSTALS PER REFTELS. TRIFONOV DISPLAYED ONE ADDRESSED TO MATVEYA IVANOVICHA TOYAS, ONE OF ALLEGEDLY INDIGNANT RECIPIENTS.

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3. CONSULAR COUNSELOR RESPONDED TO TRIFONOV THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE A CLEAR MISREPRESENTATION OF WHAT WAS NORMAL CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE. CONSOFF POINTED OUT THAT THE EMBASSY SENT THE ZAYAVLENIYA TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN NOTIFIED BY OVIR THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN EXIT PERMISSION UPON THE SUBMISSION OF SUCH ZAYAVLENIYA

FROM THE EMBASSY. CONSOFF ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE, THE COMMUNICATION IN QUESTION WERE NORMAL CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE WHICH THE RECIPIENTS WERE FREE TO UTILIZE OR IGNORE IN ANY WAY THEY SAW FIT. HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE NO GROUNDS FOR INTERPRETING SUCH CORRESPONDENCE AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. CONSOFF THEN INQUIRED WHETHER MFA WAS REQUESTING EMBASSY TO RESTRICT EMBASSY'S CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE, NOTING THAT SOVIET EMBASSY IN U.S. HAS COMPLETE FREEDOM TO ENGAGE IN CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS. TRIFONOV HASTILY REPLIED THAT MFA WAS NOT RPT NOT IMPOSING ANY RESTRICTIONS ON EMBASSY'S CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE AND THAT SOVIET SIDE ADHERED FULLY TO VIENNA CONVENTION. HE STATED THAT MFA'S PURPOSE IN THIS MEETING WAS SIMPLY TO TRANSMIT TO EMBASSY REACTION OF "INDIGNANT" SOVIET CITIZENS, BUT THAT MFA WAS NOT SEEKING TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES, OF COURSE, THAT MS. TOYAS AND OTHER "INDIGNANT" PENTECOSTALS WERE FORCED BY KGB TO REGISTER PROTESTS. WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT OF ANY CLARIFICATION WE MAY RECEIVE ON THAT POINT. MATLOCK

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